784 the dead. No person may eat the food raised by a clan to which he does not belong.

These are taboo, superstitions, and prejudice, and yet all have a symbolic reference to reality; some tend to protect the group against the wilfulness of the individual; others can be explained in psychosomatic terms; still others are poetic interpretations of natural phenomena.

• 828 Belief in the value of the interpretation of dreams is another aspect of the folk-culture of the Formosan people. Those who dream of wearing a yellow robe or of sighting fish swimming in a well may expect to receive money.[8] Those who dream of drinking on a high terrace may expect to be offered a position in government. To dream of murder or suicide is interpreted as a good omen. To dream of ants in bed or of a clouded mirror are evil omens. All of these have their Western equivalents, the patently absurd in dream books, the poetically accurate in the literature of psychoanalysis.

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8. This superstition led many families to attempt to breed fish in the family well.